

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to the abstract of the disclosure because of its undue length. Applicant has amended the abstract to comply with the requirements set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant has also amended the specification to correct certain informalities, including the informalities noted by the Examiner. The explanation for the acronym FTAM is set forth on page 2, line 29 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11-15, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Yin (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,748). The Examiner also rejects claims 2, 5, 9, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin. The Examiner further rejects claims 3, 10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin in view of Hardwick (U.S. Patent No. 5,550,816). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1, as amended, requires "maintaining in a data store of the network switch an access level for a characteristic associated with a connection request." (Emphasis added). Claim 1 then requires "determining the characteristic of the incoming connection request" and "retrieving the access level for the determined characteristic from the data store." (Emphasis added).

Yin fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Although Yin discloses a local database 15, the database simply stores "information

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regarding existing connections and bandwidth allocations for the various service classes supported." There is no teaching or suggestion by Yin that the database stores the actual access level assigned to a connection request, and much less, that it stores an access level "for a characteristic associated with a connection request, the access level being associated with an access threshold" as is required by claim 1. (See, Col. 4, lines 40-42). In fact, Yin specifically instructs that a class of service for the connection request is contained within the connection request itself. (See, Col. 5, lines 58-59) (emphasis added). Thus, for Yin's system, the class of service information is retrieved from the connection request and not from the claimed data store. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 14 contain limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 1 which make claim 1 allowable. Accordingly, claims 8 and 14 are now in condition for allowance.

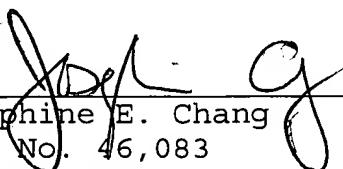
Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-20 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-20.

Respectfully submitted,

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MULTI-SERVICE NETWORK SWITCH WITH QUALITY OF ACCESS

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multi-service network switch allowing tiered access to system resources. Call policy records maintained by the switch designate quality of access (QoA) levels to different types of incoming calls. When a connection is requested, the call's call 10 policy record is retrieved and the call's QoA level is identified. A requested resource is then allocated to the call based on the identified QoA level and current resource usage.

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